

Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council

MCAO Felony Diversion Program Overview

AGENDA

August 26, 2020

12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.



Patti Cordova

Director, Diversion Strategies Group,
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Patricia Cordova is the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) Director of the Diversion Strategies Group. She has worked for over 30 years in Arizona's criminal justice system, including two gubernatorial administrations. In her current role with the MCAO she oversees the development and evaluation of all diversion programs. Based on criminal justice research and data-driven analysis of MCAO diversion programs, she recommends agency operational improvements and program modifications to contracted diversion providers. Often, she provides diversion training to Deputy County Attorneys and outside stakeholders. Throughout her career she has served in a variety of managing positions, primarily focused on advancing effective human service system policies and programs.



Jason Kalish

Division Chief, Trial Division,
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Jason Kalish is the Division Chief of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office Community Based Prosecution West Division. Previous to that he served as the Bureau Chief of the Training Bureau. In that role he was responsible for training for the nearly 900 attorneys, paralegals and staff in the office.

Mr. Kalish has spent his entire career as a prosecutor with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Jason spent some time in a trial group, where he was named the Criminal Trial Division Attorney of the Year in 1999. Jason has also prosecuted gang members and repeat offenders in the Gang/ROP bureau. He spent time as a supervisor in other bureaus, including Charging/Grand Jury, Preliminary Hearings and Juvenile Crimes. Following the supervisory stints Jason returned to trial work and spent nearly ten years prosecuting homicides; first in the Family Violence Bureau and then the Homicide Bureau, which was later renamed to the Capital Litigation Bureau. Jason was named APAAC Prosecutor of the Year in 2014 for his role as lead counsel on the retrial of the Buddhist Temple murders which occurred in 1991. In 2015 he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arizona Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

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MCAO Felony Diversion Program Overview (Continued)



Grace Ku,

Contract Compliance Administrator,
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Grace Ku is the Maricopa County Attorney's Office Diversion Contract Compliance Administrator. She has approximately 28 years of service in Arizona's criminal justice system. Prior to joining MCAO, Grace retired from the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department as a Division Director of Probation Services where her expertise included: evidence-based practices in caseload management and supervision strategies, writing department policies and procedures, treatment alternatives for youth, and staff development, including the creation of new supervisor training curriculum and firearms investigations. In her current role at MCAO, Grace is responsible for contract development with diversion vendors, researching curricula options and building new diversion programs, vendor relations, and contract monitoring.



John Vivian,

Diversion Program Evaluator,
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

John Vivian, Ph.D. is the Maricopa County Attorney's Office Diversion Program Evaluator who has worked for over 35 years in Arizona's criminal justice system. He has taught at the collegiate level for 18 years. For the last 10 years, John has taught graduate level research and criminal justice courses for Grand Canyon University. He has extensive experience evaluating correctional treatment programs and has also been trained in the Arizona Management System which uses the Plan, Do, Check Act model of continuous improvement. John is former President of the Western Society of Criminology, Arizona Administrator's Association and the Arizona Evaluation Network. He also served two terms on the Arizona Supreme Court's Commission on Minorities. He has given 14 presentations at professional conferences and has six publications.

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with the State Bar of Arizona**